

News Item

Unvaccinated TikTok Users Believe They Will Be 'Lone Survivors' | Vice

By Anna Merlan May 19, 2021

TikTok users are falsely claiming that vaccinated people will soon die, leaving them to inherit the earth. The videos—which represent a fraction of the misinformation spread unchecked by the platform, most of it less obviously ridiculous—will surely be studied by furrowed-brow scientists in 100 years, when we really *will* all be dead, not from vaccines but through a combination of pernicious ignorance and sheer exhaustion.

Using audio from the 2007 film version of *The Transformers*, the TikTok users are picturing themselves climbing atop or striding toward various things, facing away from the camera. "I am Optimus Prime," the voiceover intones, "and I send this message to any surviving Autobots taking refuge among the stars. We are here. We are waiting." The videos are hashtagged with a mixture of anti-vaccine hashtags like "#unvaccinated" and others, in a bid to have them appear on users' "For You" pages and get more views. The most-viewed video has nearly half a million likes thus far.

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